

While with a field party of the Zoological Survey of India in June 1955, I came across a large troop of leaf monkeys on the hills just behind Nishat Garden about eight miles north-east of Srinagar. There were about fifty individuals in the troop which probably included a number of family parties. The altitude at which they were found was about 8,000 ft. That this leaf monkey frequents places of similar or higher elevations was confirmed by a number of reports from the local people also. Although no specimen could be obtained, yet it was possible to observe some individuals at a very close range and identify them to be *P. e. ajax*.

The troop was busy eating wild fruits. A few individuals hurled stones<sup>1</sup> when a shot was fired. It appears to be quite an inquisitive and a bold animal, some old individuals even threatening to charge.

ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA,  
INDIAN MUSEUM,  
CALCUTTA,  
August 18, 1955.

H. KHAJURIA

#### 5. LONGEVITY OF THE CEYLON RUDDY MONGOOSE (*HERPESTES SMITHI ZEYLANICUS*) IN CAPTIVITY

Further to my note which was published in the *Journal* in 1954 [Vol. 52, (2 & 3) page 587], I now write to record that the mongoose in question died on the September 8, 1955, aged approximately 17 years and 11 months. It ate quite well right up to the last day and died peacefully during the night, apparently of old age and/or heart failure.

TONACOMBE,  
NAMUNUKULA,  
CEYLON,  
November 7, 1955.

W. W. A. PHILLIPS

#### 6. TUFTED DEER IN BURMA

With reference to U Tun Yin's very interesting note on 'Tufted Deer in Burma', in Vol. 53, pp. 123-125 of this journal, mention of 'black barking deer' in Northern Burma was not, unfortunately, confined to newspaper accounts of the Vernay-Cutting expedition. Mr. Cutting himself published an account of this expedition in 'The Fire Ox and Other Year' (London, 1947) and wrote as follows (pp. 318/19):

'Now came a big moment in the history of the expedition. Returning to camp one evening, empty-handed, we saw a Lisu crouched over the dark form of a little animal. It was a deer with

<sup>1</sup> ? Or was it not perhaps the accidental hurtling of loose stones down the hillside, caused by the flight of the langurs on the report of the gun?—Eds.